

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

March 2023

Last summer, we finally got organised enough to get some chickens, who now happily live in the back garden of the manse (with a wonderful chicken house built by Percy). If you leave the naming of your chickens to a (then) four-year-old, you get Hilda, Henrietta, Misty and Nightshadow. Having the chickens is wonderful. Yes, of course they need a bit of work, and a lot of food, but they've been great for us all, and not only because of the eggs. Observing them is usually good fun, as they like to play and run about. And they live completely in the moment. They don't worry about what will happen tomorrow, they don't think back to yesterday, they are only concerned with whether they have enough food and water, shelter when it is rainy or cold, and space to run around in. Oh yes, they can be demanding – as it gets lighter again in the morning, you can hear their screams if you haven't let them out by 8am – but that's also because they want to get out into the light, and enjoy the day. Of course, our lives are rather more complex than that of chickens, but I still think we can learn something from them. We so often think back fondly or regretfully on what is past, we plan ahead or worry about what is to come, and we often forget to savour the moment. As someone who likes to have a plan, I appreciate how important it can be to be prepared, to anticipate and plan ahead, and it is equally important to learn from the past, and to hold on to lovely memories. And we should make most of where we are at, and enjoy it.

In the church, we are currently worried about what is to come, as we find ourselves in the midst of changes and restructuring. But the truth is that we never know what is around the corner, we never know what tomorrow will bring. And change is constant – life is always moving on, and everything is changing, all the time, ourselves included. And if things always stayed the same, and if we didn't learn and grow – how boring would that be! Right now, we are very aware of the changes before us, and we have a chance to shape them, too. We can shape our life, day by day: through our choices, through what we say and do. How do we want the world to look, what do we want our community, our church to be like? Each and everyone of us is part of the church, of our community, right now: and so we all can shape it. Was it Gandhi who said that we need to be the change we wish to see in the world? We might be limited in what we can do, but each of us can shape our world in little ways, and sometimes in quite big ways, too.

So with that, let's take an example from the chickens, and enjoy our days, take the opportunities that each day offers, and make the best of it. If you would like to get more involved with our church and community work, if you would like a chat, or any other support, please get in touch.

Have a good spring, Anikó

Friday Club

We've had lots of fun at Friday Club! We've enjoyed getting to know each other better, sung songs and played games. Each time, we also have an age-appropriate prayer: recently we used beautiful seashells to express what we want to give thanks for to God, and put pebbles in water to ask that God may wash our worries away. We continue to explore Bible stories, often with peg dolls or playmobil figures – learning about the Lord's Prayer, and together baking our daily bread; thinking about the creation story as well as everything we've learned through archaeology since the Bible was written, and are now moving on to an Old testament cycle with the stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Rebekah and Isaac, and Jacob, Leah, Rachel and their whole family. Join us fortnightly on Friday afternoons, 2pm-3.30 in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun. There's also softplay for younger children, and coffees and teas for parents, grandparents and carers. We meet again on 10 and 24 Mar, 21 April, 5 and 19 May and 2 and 16 June (please note the gap in April due to school holidays!)



The future of our church

Anikó Schütz Bradwell

Following an intense deliberation and decision-making process last year, we are now ready to move into a new phase of our church life. I'm so grateful to all our elders, who have engaged with this process in a dedicated and constructive manner, and to all of you who have held us in prayer during this difficult time. The Church of Scotland – along with so many Western churches – finds itself in a position where change is desperately needed, in order to make it fit for purpose for serving our communities today, and to respond to the challenges we all face: the reducing membership numbers, lower income, and decreasing numbers of ministers. One effect of these reductions is that we are no longer able to maintain all our church buildings, as each congregation is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of its buildings.

In the short-to-medium-term, the changes for us will include the union between Humbie Church and Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church, so we will become one congregation with (likely) one Sunday service, one Kirk Session and one joint congregational life. While our work across our whole parish, and in all its communities, will continue – as well as new activities in the planning – our main worship spaces will be Yester Church and Humbie Church, as well as the Session Rooms in East Saltoun and the Humbie Stables, which will continue to be used for community activities. There will be a review three years after the union on the use of Humbie Church and Stables. Bolton Church and Saltoun Church will at some point regrettably be closed as Church of Scotland buildings, although we are very hopeful that they can be retained for the use of the community, including the celebration of family services such as weddings. As I have said before, these decisions have not been lightly made, but in response to the reality of our situation. Our connections, our congregation and the friendships and support in our communities will continue.

We are the congregation in this parish, and our church and its connections extend beyond buildings. I sincerely hope and pray that you will give the new arrangements a chance. We connect beyond village boundaries and cross the parish for so many purposes – and now, our church can be one of those, even more so than it currently is.

Foodbank

Our next collections for East Lothian foodbank will be on 19th March and 18th June. Many thanks.

When we come together for events or to worship together, we find enjoyment and friendship in the encounters, and the shared experiences. Please consider travelling to a church service or event, even if it is not in your village. If you have any concerns about transport, please speak to me or an elder, and we'll arrange appropriate transport links. We don't want anybody to miss out because of longer journeys or worries about parking.

The union of Yester, Bolton and Saltoun into one parish in 2015 has been such a positive experience, resulting in a good congregation (and beautiful singing) on a Sunday morning and many friendships and joined activities across the area. As we find ourselves at another crossroads, please travel with us into this new phase of our church life, and help us to shape it. We are the church, all of us – so please stay with us and support us in this period of change, and be a part of the church you want to see in your community, so that we all may continue to love and to serve God and our community.

Presbytery changes

As of 1st January, we are now part of the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders. This includes all Church of Scotland congregations from the previous Presbyteries of Jedburgh, Duns and Melrose & Peebles together with our own Lothian ones. At our first meeting on 21st January, the new Moderator was installed, the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, who is a minister in Duns, and previously served at Dornoch Cathedral, as well as being Moderator of the General Assembly in 2018. We also commissioned our new Presbytery Clerk, the Rev Norman Smith, formerly minister of Granton Church in Edinburgh and a past Convenor of the Mission & Discipleship Council, and the son-in-law of our own Paul Sales. Presbytery supports all congregations within its bounds, and has pastoral, financial and property oversight over the churches. Nevertheless, it's not some abstract body, but made up of representatives of all congregations: every parish minister, along with an elder from each congregation, and deacons, associate ministers and non-stipendiary ministers are making up Presbytery, and everyone has a voice in our decision making. If you would like to hear more, please speak to Anikó or John Macfarlane, who is our Presbytery Elder.



Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun – latest news

Many of you will have attended church or community events in the Fletcher Hall in recent years. Our most recent event was a successful pre-Christmas Winter Craft Fair, which raised around £650 – an excellent contribution to our hall redevelopment funds.

We have now completed a lengthy process of changing the charitable status and ownership of the hall. The property is now registered in the name of the new charity, which means less personal liability for those local residents who act as trustees, manage the hall's use and organise community events. We no longer have external property trustees (who included Aniko) and the former charity has now been removed from the Scottish Charity Register.

Anyone who lives or works in the Saltoun parish area can become a registered member of the new charity – there are no commitments involved but, under the charity rules, anyone who wishes to have a say in decisions about the hall's future or in the appointment of the trustees (who have to be elected annually) must be a registered member. Membership application forms can be found on our website at www.saltouncommunityassociation.com or feel free to have a word with myself.

Alastair Wyllie – Chair, Saltoun Community Association SCIO

Our church finances

Wendy Ferguson

We continue to be incredibly fortunate with members making generous donations year after year. Thank you to you all. Unfortunately this year we do not think these will be sufficient to cover all costs. A number of one off expenses are required for repairs that cannot be deferred any longer.

If you pay UK income tax and haven't signed a gift aid form please think about doing this so we can claim a further 25% from HMRC on your donations. For more information please ask Paul Sales or me.

Please support all our fundraising efforts where you can, either by helping, by attending or suggesting ideas we might try that you have enjoyed and know were successful elsewhere.

Your Church Needs You!

Liz McDougall and Claire Gobourn

In the current cost of living crisis everyone is feeling the pinch. Our church is no different. To try and work together to overcome these financial challenges there will be a meeting to explore fundraising ideas on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Session Rooms, East Saltoun to which all are welcome. Please put this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible to discuss new ideas to help support the church. Tea and cake will be provided. Thank you.

Taking part

If you would like to come along to services and other events, but find it difficult to get there and would appreciate a lift, please contact us and we'll arrange appropriate links. If you can't come along to church on a Sunday, recordings of our services are available on the worship pages of our websites and our youtube channel. Sound recordings are available, too, if you can't access them online. And if you like coming along to church but have difficulty hearing, we can provide you with a script of the service – simply speak to Anikó.

Opportunities

There are many options of being more actively involved with our church life: you could join the choir, help with coffee mornings or coffees after services, join the worship team or the welcoming team for services, or help with Forest Church. We are also hoping to offer a Summer Holiday Club, if there are enough people who would like to help, either with activities or catering, so if you're interested, please get in touch.

Spring services

On Sunday, 26th March, we will be joined at our service by Siskin Green, a Christian folk band. Many of your (grand)children will be familiar with Fischy Music songs like 'Welcome Everybody' and 'You are a star'. The Fischy team also visited Humbie and Saltoun Primaries before Christmas. Two of their members are also part of this band, and they will be in the parish for a photoshoot for their upcoming album, and will play some songs for us as part of our joint service on 26th March, at 10am in Saltoun Church - to which all are very welcome.

During Holy Week, we will again offer Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services. On Easter Day, we will have a family service at 10am in Bolton Church, with an Easter egg hunt for the children.

We gather for the first Forest Church of the year on Sunday, 30th April. It will take place in Humbie Kirk Wood, and we'll meet at 3.30pm in the Lower Carpark by Humbie Church (the one just beyond the church). All ages are very welcome, as are dogs on a lead. Please make sure to wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy footwear.



Apologies

On Sunday, 5th February, we decided with short notice to move the service from Yester Church, as originally planned, to Saltoun Church, due to the unresolved heating problems at Yester Church.

While this change was advertised through our weekly email and on our church website, we did not succeed in calling all our regular attenders who are not online, to advise them of the change. We also failed to put up a notice at Yester Church on the morning, and offer our sincere apologies for the inconvenience and disappointment caused.

If a similar scenario was to happen in the future, we will ensure that changes are advised through the notice board by the church, and that elders will call members in their districts who are not online.

Introducing members of our Church: Jim McDougal



Home Farm for 34 years.

Who are you?

James Liddle McDougal. I am a retired Farm Manager, husband, father and grandfather

Where do you live, and how long have you lived there?

Gardener's Cottage. We have lived here for 18 months, but prior to that we lived at Saltoun

Where were you born?

I was born at home, Abbey Road, Dalkeith, as I was an unexpected sudden arrival and was delivered by my aunt who cycled down from Edgehead. Those were the days.

What fills your days?

My days are filled with walking, helping local farmers, being a reluctant gardener (despite the name of our house!) being a loving caring husband (!!) and a playful, fun loving grandfather whose humour is not appreciated enough in my opinion!

Do you have any pets?

We don't have a pet but we have an adopted rough coated German Pointer which belongs to my youngest daughter, and has almost destroyed both my garden and my good natured temperament.

What does it mean to you to be part of the Church?

I enjoy being part of our congregation which has always provided support, friendship and fellowship and of course I must include our cheery wee minister.

What do you enjoy doing?

Since my retiral I enjoy reading, walking and to be given the opportunity to develop my life long interest in bird watching (the feathered kind!!!)

If you could live anywhere but here, where would it be?

If I had to live anywhere else it would be on the beautiful island of Iona in the summer and anywhere with a nice sunny climate in winter.

Please tell us three of your favourite: hymns

My favourite Hymns are:

How great thou art, Hymn, 154,

Be thou my vision Oh Lord of my heart, Hymn 465

Still the Night, Hymn 309

(and if I'm allowed a fourth) *There is a Green Hill*, Hymn 380.

Bible verses or passages

John 8:12

Jesus spoke to the Pharisees again. "I am the light of the world" he said. "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness"

Corinthians 13: 4-6

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

Matthew 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower.

bands/singers/ composers

My favourite bands/singers are Freddie Mercury and Queen, Abba and Fiona McDougal (Fiona made me write this!)

books/ authors

My favourite novels are:

The Cone Gatherers by Robin Jenkins

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

foods

My favourite foods are: Homemade fish and chips with Tartare Sauce, Homemade Steak Pie, Seafood Chowder (and Chocolate!!!).

If you would like to introduce yourself in a future newsletter, please contact the editor at djbradwell@gmail.com.

All are welcome

In our recent Kirk Session meeting, after thoughtful discussion, we agreed that going forward, we are welcoming same-sex couple as well as heterosexual couples for wedding services in our church buildings. Following last year's General Assembly's decision to allow freedom and variety of opinion on the topic, Anikó was authorised in the autumn to conduct same-sex marriages, and we are happy to be able to extend our welcome to all. If you have any questions, please speak to Anikó.

Our Church Family

Please join us for our DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS



Come for a chat
over a cup of tea
or coffee

10.30am-12noon

Wed, 8 Mar, Yester Church

Tue, 28 Mar, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 12 Apr, Yester Church

Tue, 25 Apr, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 10 May, Yester Church

Tue, 23 May, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 14 June, Yester Church

Tue, 27 June, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church

Scottish Charity No SC015414

**HUMBIE LW YESTER BOLTON
SALTOUN CHURCH**

Friday Club

For all children aged 0-12
(and their parents,
grandparents or carers)

Exploring Bible stories
and our big questions
through play, storytelling,
songs and crafts

Suggested contribution:
Under 2s free
From age 2 - £3
Family - £5

Fortnightly on Fridays 2-3.30pm

Saltoun Session Rooms
Main Street, East Saltoun

humbiechurch.org
yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

Deaths	21 November 2022	Isla Brunt, of Aberdeen (formerly Gifford)
	24 November 2022	Anne Lothian, of Gifford
	21 December 2022	Hector Macdonald, of Glenkinchie
	9 January 2023	Wilma Anderson, of New Winton

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
The minister's time off is usually Saturdays and Mondays.			
Session Clerk	John Macfarlane	01875 341311	jmacfarlane9@btinternet.com
Depute Session Clerk	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Depute Session Clerk	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Finlay Marshall	01620 810310	fmarshall542@gmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Gift Aid Treasurer	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Fabric Convener	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Sunday Club	Jenny Riddell	07905 135975	keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk
	Jackie McCreery	01620 810131	jackie@yesterfarmdairies.co.uk
Flower rota (Yester)	Sylvia Anderson	01620 810678	jimsylvia@scoraig.net
	Jean Peat	01620 810358	jeanpeat@hotmail.co.uk
Flower rota (Bolton)	Claire Gobourn	01875 340692	gobourn@globalnet.co.uk
Flower rota (Saltoun)	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@outlook.com
Prayer Group	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@outlook.com
Newsletter	David Bradwell	01620 811193	djbradwell@gmail.com
Safeguarding and Health & Safety	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Website/Social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopesestate.com

Deadline for next newsletter: Thursday 16 May 2023



The Church of Scotland

yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch

Watch services on YouTube – search for Humble Lw Yester Bolton Saltoun Church

Follow us on Instagram instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch and Twitter @YBS_Church

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Church Services March – June 2023

Our Sunday services are usually held at 10am, in Yester Church on the first and third Sundays, in Bolton Church on the second and in Saltoun Church on the fourth Sunday of the month. The fortnightly services in Bolton and Saltoun Church are held jointly with our friends at Humble Church. Services at Yester Church are livestreamed on the Church website and YouTube channel, and remain available later. Services at Bolton and Saltoun Church (where we don't have internet) are recorded and made available later on Sunday. Sound recordings on CD are available on request.

March	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	12	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Communion
	19	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Short service followed by Siskin Green mini concert
April	2	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club / Palm Sunday
	6	Saltoun	7.30 pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Maundy Thursday, with Communion
	7	Humble	7.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Good Friday
	9	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Easter family service
	16	Yester	10am	tbc	
	23	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea
	30	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	30	Humble Kirk Wood	3.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Forest Church – meet at lower car park by Humble Church
May	7	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club and baptism
	14	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Communion
	21	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea
	28	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Pentecost Baptism
June	4	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	11	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	18	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	25	Saltoun Forest Church	10am 3.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea Forest Church

Across: 1. Go Dutch 5. Cease 8. Larva 9. Machair 10. Basmati 11. Eagle 12. Gannet 14. Bimmen 18. Abide 20. Emerald
Down: 1. Golf bag 2. Dares 3. Teacake 4. Humble 5. Cycle 6. Amalgam 7. Eyrie 13. Naivety 15. Itemise 16. Nodding
 17. Beadle 18. Accra 19. Earls 21. Acari
 22. Cheered 23. Iraq 24. Abyss 25. Evening

Across

- 1. Share the cost of a meal (2,5)
- 5. Bring to an end (5)
- 8. Immature form of an insect (5)
- 9. Fertile grassy plain on the west coast of Scotland (7)
- 10. Type of rice (7)
- 11. Was Eddie this bird? (5)
- 12. A bird seen on Bass Rock (5)
- 14. Refuse collectors (6)
- 18. ___ with me, hymn 580 (5)
- 20. A green gemstone (7)
- 22. You did this when your team scored! (7)
- 23. He is from Baghdad (5)
- 24. A deep gulf (5)
- 25. The period of time at the end of the day (7)

Down

- 1. A place to keep woods and irons (4,3)
- 2. Whoever does this, wins (5)
- 3. Tunnocks make this (7)
- 4. East Lothian Hub (6)
- 5. This can often be seen outside the Laterne Rouge (5)
- 6. This might be used for dental fillings (7)
- 7. Nest of an eagle (5)
- 13. Lack of wisdom and judgement (7)
- 15. Make a list (7)
- 16. Moving your head in agreement (7)
- 17. A church officer who assists the minister (6)
- 18. The capital of Ghana (5)
- 19. Men who rank below a marquess and above a viscount (5)
- 21. Small arachnids – ticks and mites (5)

Crossword No. 8 set by Margaret

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8						9						
10								11				
12		13					14	15				16
						17						
18				19		20				21		
22								23				
24						25						

Humbie Kirk
Coffee morning

Saturday 18th March
Humbie village hall

10:30 - 12:00

Entry £3.00* (children free)

Stalls include

Home Baking * Tombola * Raffle
Plant Stall * Brick-a-brack

Includes Tea/Coffee and delicious home baking